

MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING CANCER CENTER

1275 YORK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021



Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson
Director of
National Institute of Health
Building 1 room 124
900 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Md. 20014

NYC, September 22, 1978

Dear Dr. Fredrickson,

I have read the revised guidelines for DNA recombinant research and wish to express you my support and deepest appreciation. I fully agree that DNA recombinant research, like many other Promethean activities of the modern scientist should continue to be matter of everybody's concern. On the other hand, to insist on the old guidelines after the recent acquisition of data on the subject here and abroad would be a dangerous obscurantism which could be labeled, without exaggeration, the greatest threat to biology since the Lysenko affair.

Needless to say, that as a medical man who has been involved in the study of Man's inheritance for over 25 years, I look at DNA recombinant technology as the long awaited tool which may eventually permit a true hypocratic approach in medical genetics, i.e. the correction of genetic defects rather than the elimination of their carriers. This "Euphenical" measure (the term is Joshua Lederberg's) as opposed to currently used "Eugenical" interventions - abortion or sterilization of the unfit, selective mating, artificial insemination etc. - need not be inheritable. It should preferentially be limited to the somatic cells of a diseased tissue or organ for the sole purpose of adjusting the individual organism to its ecological environment when it happens not to be so because of its unfavorable genetic make up.

Sincerely yours,

Marcello Siniscalco, M.D.
Member and Professor of Biology

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